

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 171519Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4645

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USIA WASHDC

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USIA FOR/IEU MCLAUGHLIN, IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PO

SUBJ: MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 6141 DTG 171248Z OCT 75

1. ATTACKS CONTINUE AGAINST MINISTER OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS:
COMMUNIST-LINING LISBON MORNING PAPERS, "O SEculo" AND "DIARIO
DE NOTICIAS," CONTINUE TO PLAY UP ATTACKS AGAINST MINISTER
ALMEIDA SANTOS FOR HIS STATED RELUCTANCE TO GIVE SUBSIDIES TO
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STATE-OWNED NEWSPAPERS WHICH SYSTEMICALLY OPPOSE GOP. BOTH

PAPERS OCT. 17 GAVE MAJOR PLAY TO JOURNALISTS' SYNDICATE OCT. 16 VOTE OF "TOTAL LACK OF CONFIDENCE" FOR WHAT IS TERMED THE MINISTER'S "BLACKMAIL" AGAINST THE PAPERS WHICH WOULD LOSE STATE SUPPORT UNDER MINISTER'S PROPOSED POLICIES. "O SEculo" OCT. 17 PUBLISHED LENGTHY LETTER FROM MINISTER TO PAPER'S EDITOR, A LONG-TIME PERSONAL FRIEND, IN WHICH ALMEIDA SANTOS HEATEDLY DEFENDS HIS VIEWPOINTS AGAINST SUBSIDIES FOR "OPPOSITION" NEWSPAPERS AND FOR STRICT APPLICATION OF THE PRESS LAW UNDER WHICH "O SEculo" EDITOR IS BEING PROCESSED. OCT. 17 PRESS REPORTS SAID MAJORITY VOTE AT WORKERS' MEETING AT "O SEculo" REJECTED POSSIBILITY OF REPLACING TOP EDITORS AND CHANGE IN EDITORIAL POLICY; REPORTED WORKERS' DECISION WAS THAT STATE SHOULD SUBSIDIZE PAPER BUT ALLOW WORKERS THEIR "RIGHT" TO DEFINE EDITORIAL POLICY. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT "O SEculor" LACKS RESOURCES TO PAY OCTOBER SALARIES.

2. OFFICIAL STATEMENT ABOUT CLOSED RADIO STATION: OCT. 17 PRESS PUBLISHED OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY PRESIDENCY IN WHICH THAT OFFICE TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLOSING AND "SEALING" OF ENTRANCES TO RADIO RENASCENCA FACILITIES. COMMUNIST-DOMINATED PRESS PLAYS UP OPPOSITION TO MOVE BY WORKERS AND SYMPATHIZERS WHO ARE "CAMPING" OUTSIDE ENTRANCES BUT HAVE MADE NO MOVE TO RETAKE STATION.

3. COMMENT: OPPOSITION TO MINISTER ALMEIDA SNATOS SO FAR HAS FOUND ITS PRINCIPAL REVERBERATIONS IN THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED MORNING PRESS; HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT MINISTER WROTE A LONG AND CAREFULLY WORDED LETTER EXPLAINING HIS POSITION TO "O SEculo" INDICATES HE DOES NOT TAKE THIS ATTACK LIGHTLY. MOTION OF DISAPPROVAL OF MINISTER BY JOURNALISTS' SYNDICATE LOSES SOME OF ITS PUNCH BECAUSE PRESS REPORTS OF THE MEETING CAREFULLY FAIL TO MENTION HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE PRESENT AND VOTING. (FYI: JOURNALISTS' SYNDICATE IS SO THOROUGHLY CONTROLLED AND MANIPULATED BY PC ELEMENTS THAT INDEPENDENT JOURANLISTS WHO DO NOT WANT TO WASTE HOURS IN HARANGUES AT SYNDICATE MEETINGS SIMPLY STAY AWAY.) CONFLICT OVER RADIO RENASCENCA HASSOME POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS STRIFE BETWEEN GOP AND COMMUNIST-LINING SUPPORTERS OF FORMER OCCUPIERS OF THE STATION; BUT THE GOP SEEMS TO BE TRYING TO COOL DOWN THE ISSUE BY "WAITING IT OUT" AND KEEPING STATION OFF THE AIR.

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